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LEVEL OF LIVING ON THE ROPESVILLE PROJECT  
HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS

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By

Paul J. Jehlik  
Junior Rural Sociologist

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## Contents

	page
Introductory Considerations . . . . .	1
Farm Finances . . . . .	2
Ability Needed . . . . .	3
Basic Considerations . . . . .	3
Income and Expenditures . . . . .	4
Characteristics of Groups . . . . .	9
All Income Groups . . . . .	13
Family Living . . . . .	15
Classification of items of family living . . . . .	15
Planning for family living . . . . .	16
Cash expenditures for family living, by months . .	18
Expenditures per person for items of family	
living, by size of family . . . . .	21
Home-produced foods . . . . .	23
Planning of the home-produced food supply . . . .	24
Foods canned and stored . . . . .	26
Summary . . . . .	27
Appendix . . . . .	29

## EXPLANATION

This reports one of a series of studies to ascertain the levels of living of groups of people living in various parts of the Southern Great Plains. The study here described deals with the level of living in a "newly constructed community" - The Ropesville Resettlement Project, located near Ropesville, in Hockley County, Texas.

The report is based upon record books kept by 47 of the 76 project families. Acknowledgments are made to Mrs. Esther B. Call, Regional Chief of Home Management, Farm Security Administration, Region XII, for assistance and advice rendered in the conduct of this study. This study is based on assistance furnished by the Work Projects Administration, Official Project #65-2-66-622, and transcription and tabulation of data were done by Work Projects Administration employees.

It is necessary to limit the analysis to those families who had reasonably complete account books, but they appear to be a representative sample of all families on the project, for such items as food, household operation, clothing, housing, furnishings, and equipment, medical care, personal expenditures, education, recreation, church welfare, gifts, etc., and insurance.

LEVEL OF LIVING ON THE ROPESVILLE PROJECT  
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1939

Introductory Considerations

The Ropesville Resettlement Project has nearly attained its normal agricultural activity, and, therefore, an effort to describe the level of living of the families may be made. In order to learn this level of living, the total value of goods and services consumed was used as a measure. This is only one form of index and is in no way a perfect form. Moreover, the data from the farm record books did not permit an analysis of all of the factors which might enter into the determination of level of living.

Although the families all came to the Ropesville Project from submarginal land and had been selected from low-income groups, they brought with them diverse cultural and personal values and practices, which hindered the establishment of a culturally uniform group and an integrated social unit. One of the major problems of the Farm Security Administration is to weld diverse elements like these into cultural and social unity which must necessarily precede success in economic rehabilitation. It may well be that later reports regarding the project will indicate success or failure of this rehabilitation as proportional to the development of relatively uniform cultural values.

The Ropesville Project is located in the southeastern part of Hockley County, Texas, near the town of Ropesville. The project consists of 2 parts - the "old" or original project comprising 4,101 acres of virgin land, bought by the Government in 1935, and the "new" or second part, comprising 12,122 acres of virgin land bought 2 years later. The project is practically complete in that all of the farm buildings have been constructed.

The project consists of 79 farm units, representing 76 families and 316 individuals. The families were selected by the then Resettlement Administration from 19 counties in the western and northwestern parts of Texas. They consist of low-income farm families who were living in submarginal areas that were being taken out of cultivation.

The farm units in the project ranged from 121 to 313 acres in 1939; and cotton, forage, and grain sorghums were the principal crops.

From the 76 families on the project 47 complete farm family record books were collected and summarized. 1/ These records were kept for the entire 12-month period of 1939.

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1/ The FSA recommends to each of its borrowers that he keep a farm and home account book, which provides space for entries showing in detail all incomes and expenditures throughout the year, as well as an inventory of assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the year. Considerable assistance is given those families who wish it, in keeping these books. For some families keeping records is such a new experience that their books were not complete enough to use in this study.

Forty-six of these were families which included man, wife, and children; the other family consisted of a widow and her children, and the widow was considered the head of the household.

These families averaged 4.4 persons, with a range from 2 to 8 persons per family. The ages of the operators ranged from 25 to 49 years, with an average of 36 years. The ages of the housewives ranged from 21 to 43 years, with an average of 30 years. An eighth grade schooling was the average for men and women. Formal schooling of some ended at the completion of the fifth grade, but one man had had 3 years of college study. The schooling of the wives ranged from the sixth grade to college completion, with the average of schooling ending with the completion of the tenth grade.

#### Farm Finances

Although land is the basic factor in agriculture, its productivity from the standpoint of family living is exceedingly elastic. Among other things, the productivity is conditioned by types of crops raised, disposition or utilization of the crops, and the other productive enterprises carried on. In short, the land furnishes only the raw materials, which is the first step in the productive process. The nature of some of these raw materials - and cotton is a good example - precludes processing on the farm. On the other hand, grains may well be processed on the farm and finally marketed in the form of beef, pork, poultry, eggs and dairy produce. This processing of the raw materials normally increases the cash returns from the farm unit and contributes important items of food to the family at much less than their market cost. Moreover, it flattens out the highs and lows in the curve of annual farm income and to some extent protects farm income from the disorganizing effects of violent price fluctuations and crop failures.

The land base in the Ropesville Project consists of an average of 202 acres per unit, which is too small, under the normal climatic conditions of the area, to furnish enough income to maintain an adequate family level of living under a simple cash crop system, but it is believed to be large enough if the unit is operated under a diversified cash-crop-livestock system.

The project is admittedly an experiment. The people, coming from diverse areas, had little in common except the common feeling which may have grown out of their former individual experiences in the disheartening struggle against the overwhelming forces of drought and depression. Many of them were most familiar with the simple cash-crop system. In their new environment they must learn a new system if they are to make a living. To inaugurate the diversified system requires considerable capital resources, which they do not have. The Farm Security Administration is loaning them the needed capital, giving them technical guidance, and supplementing incomes with grants.

The year 1939 was the fourth year of their experience on the project. All the land had been brought under cultivation, but the livestock industry had been little more than started. It is not proposed to bring that part of the farm

program to full capacity with borrowed capital but rather to build it by the "turning under of earlier profits" so that after the initial start the people will virtually pull themselves up by their bootstraps, while they are paying installments and interest on the original loans.

#### Ability Needed

The size of the units has been somewhat standardized, but no attempt has been made to standardize the lives of the people or their income. Individual intelligence, initiative, and judgment have a wide field in which to operate, and they will be the chief forces in the ultimate determination of the families' incomes and levels of living. A piece of land which was considered sufficiently large to provide an adequate family living has been made available to each family. Tools and capital have been put within their reach, and guidance is available to all. Within limits determined by price and markets, the results in terms of levels of living will vary mainly according to the ability of each, and are no more predictable than the results when children in the classroom are given chunks of clay, tools, and instruction by an art teacher.

#### Basic Considerations

It is planned to issue annual reports regarding the levels of living at the Ropesville Project, to record and show the efforts, experiments, errors, successes, progress, and set-backs of the project in general and the individuals of whom it is composed without, of course, revealing the identities. In reading this first one, and the reports to follow, it should be kept in mind that (1) the size of the farming unit has been somewhat standardized, (2) capital for buying production goods is available within general limits to the farmers, (3) within broad limits, the farmer himself decides the extent to which he will finance his business through borrowed capital, (4) debts are amortized over a period of years, (5) cash-crop farming will not provide an adequate income for the family, so diversification is encouraged, (6) home production of food is encouraged, and (7) the project is young. This report shows only the status of the farms in 1939. Production to full capacity will not be achieved until some future time.

Farm family living must be considered in relation to farm income and the general programs of farm operation and financing. The farm business differs markedly from other businesses in that the farm and home are intimately associated. The family lives on the farm, and farm activities cannot be segregated sharply from family-living pursuits. In fact, the family life is oriented to the farm work and the activities of all members must be in gear with the needs of farming. Usually each member of the family contributes time and effort to the operation of the farm. The work of the housewife extends into the realm of farm operation and each child has his tasks which help to keep the farm "going," and provides a large part of the child's education. All of their efforts on the farm are for the purpose of family living. With no clear-cut distinctions between business life and family life, the farm families judge their level of living partially on the basis of their farming enterprise. Thus, farm equipment, condition of the livestock, and general success in their work have certain psychological connotations which must be considered in the complex which makes up a farmer's level of living in the opinion of his neighbors.

### Income and Expenditures

All the project families have five possible sources of annual income: (1) Actual cash farm income derived from crops, livestock, and livestock products, plus minor miscellaneous income that may come from sales of old machinery, or scrap iron, or occasionally small gifts or inheritance; (2) miscellaneous employment; (3) AAA payments; (4) FSA grants; and (5) home-produced foods.

There are four types of expenditures: (1) Family living expenses, which have been subdivided into food and other living items (at this point, in order to make the income and expenditure columns balance, the farm value of home-produced food is included); (2) farm operating expenses, which include cost of fuel, all feed, seed, and harvest costs; rent, hired labor, etc.; (3) payments on debts, which include payments to FSA and private lending agencies; and (4) expenditures for capital goods, broken down as to that spent for machinery and for livestock.

A comparison of income and expenditures is given in Figure 1. The families were grouped according to the size of their income and for each group the amount of income and expenditures is shown. The Figure shows family living in its proper perspective and relation to the farm operation on the Ropesville Project. It shows the 1939 financial conditions of the Ropesville families, indicating the sources of income and expenditure. In addition, it shows the total debt obligation of the families and their ability to pay off that debt on the basis of their present income and expenses.

Two general groups of income are recognized in the chart - borrowed monies and cash receipts from the farm, including farm and non farm miscellaneous employment, AAA, and FSA grants. These cash receipts are shown in the left-hand column, with the borrowed monies below the zero line and nonrepayable income above the line. The right-hand column represents expenditures. Below the zero line are expenditures for capital goods, such as machinery and livestock, and above the line are current or running expenditures. Thus it shows, among other things, whether the expenditures of a group of families are within their income or whether they are borrowing or securing FSA grants to meet current expenses. Furthermore, it can be readily seen whether the money borrowed is being used to buy machinery or livestock, and whether part of the year's income is being used for these capital investments.

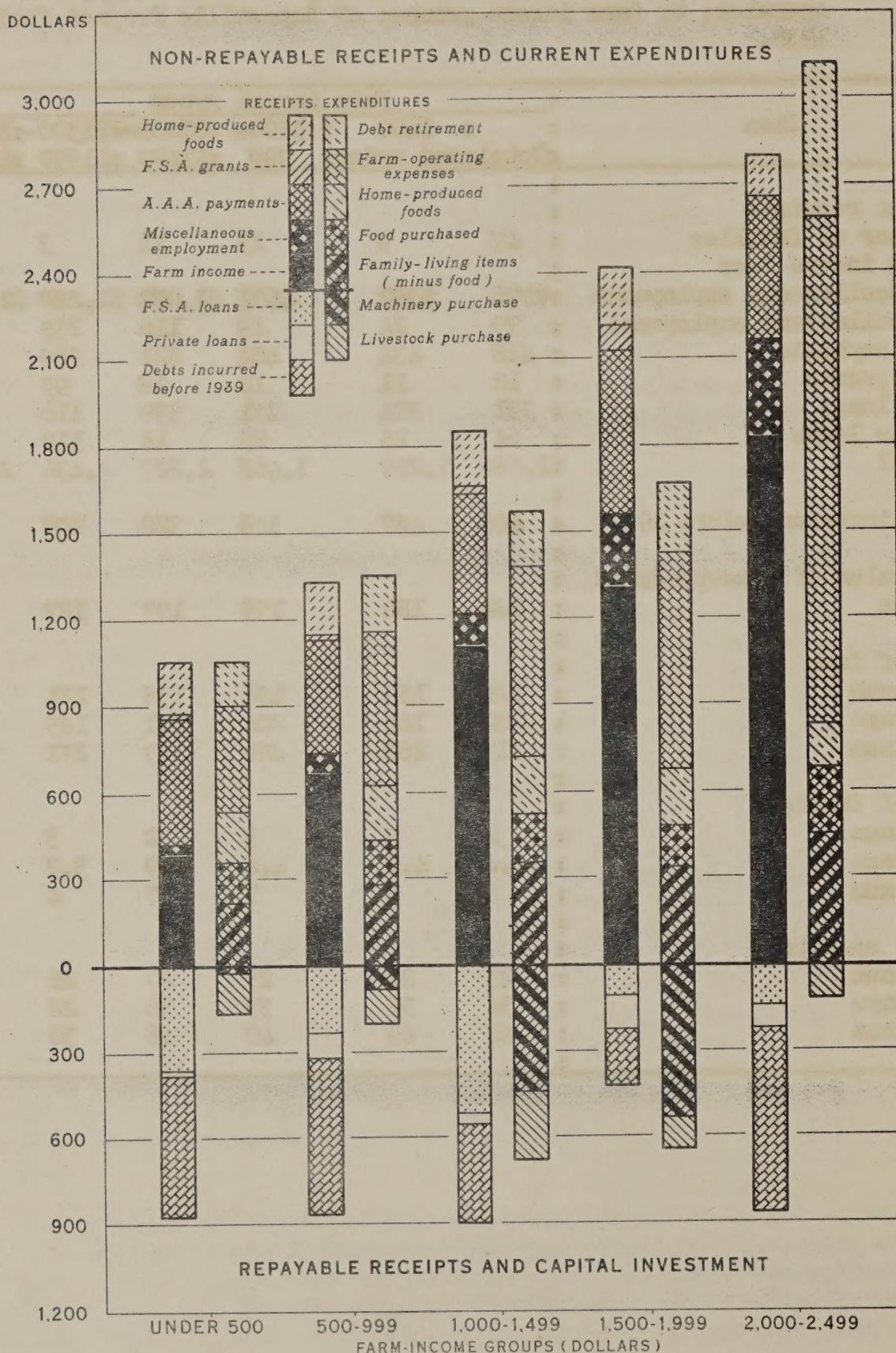
All of the income and expenditures fall between January 1, 1939 and January 1, 1940, except for the dotted area below the base line in the income column. This section represents debt obligation incurred previous to January 1, 1939 and should not be considered in the balancing of current income and expenditures. That section has been added to give a true picture of the family financial conditions.

In the chart the families have been grouped on the basis of their actual farm income exclusive of AAA payments and FSA grants, but including miscellaneous employment. After making this distribution, certain other characteristics of the families composing the groups were ascertained. It is significant, as indicated by Table 1, that this type of income did not increase with farm size, size of family, or age of operator.

Table 1.- Source of receipts, indebtedness incurred before 1939, and value of home-produced foods, size of farm, size of family, and age of operator; by farm income groups; 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939.

Item	Farm income group					
	\$499	\$500-	\$1000-	\$1500-	\$2000-	
	Total and under:	999	\$1499	\$1999	\$2499	
Average receipts	:					
Number of families	:	47	9	23	11	3
Farm income less	:					
miscellaneous employment	:	\$776	\$382	\$671	\$1,082	\$1,289
Miscellaneous employment	:	79	24	49	116	255
AAA payments	:	418	434	404	421	569
FSA grants	:	18	11	10	18	95
FSA loans	:	331	374	251	539	116
Other loans	:	64	25	83	44	112
Total	:	1,686	1,250	1,468	2,220	2,436
Debts incurred before 1939	:	466	487	548	328	203
Farm value of home-produced foods	:	184	186	178	197	187
Size of farm	:					
Minimum	:	121	153	156	158	121
Average	:	202	186	204	221	185
Maximum	:	313	268	289	313	272
Size of family	:					
Minimum	:	2	3	3	2	3
Average	:	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.9	3.3
Maximum	:	3	8	7	7	4
Age of operator	:					
Minimum	:	25	26	25	29	26
Average	:	34	35	33	36	28
Maximum	:	49	49	40	46	30

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL EXPENDITURES,  
47 ROPESVILLE PROJECT FAMILIES, 1939



Study of the chart reveals several important facts. First is the similarity of the amount of indebtedness. Four of the groups have incurred practically the same total obligations. Although outside employment in no case contributes an important percentage of the total income, the amount of this employment increases with the size of the income. In other words, those whose farms bring in the most are the ones who go out and get the most additional work. It seems that those who have the most outside employment also have the larger investment in machinery and so may be expected to have tractors and power machinery. If this is true, it is another illustration of the close relation of farm living and agriculture as a business. That is, the family uses its labor and its tractor and power machinery, which represent capital investment made primarily for farm operation, to bring in further income.

The cash outlay for family living is less than the actual earned income from the farm in each of the income groups. But the combined living and farm operating expenses exceed the actual earned income from farm operations in all groups, except that which has a farm income of \$1500-1999. The one operator with the largest income has a total of farm operating expense which is approximately equal to his farm income, not counting the other employment which he has.

It is clear that the Agricultural Adjustment payments and the income from nonfarm labor are the two items that bring farm income above the combined living expenses and operating expenses. Without them the farmers would be unable to meet the expenditures for living, for farm operations, and for repayments of loans. Evidently, in some instances, only by borrowing more money were the farmers able to meet their old obligations. In three instances more money was borrowed than was invested in capital equipment. But the two groups in the \$1,000-\$1,499 and \$1,500-\$1,999 income brackets invested more money in capital equipment than they borrowed, which indicates that the individuals in these groups were using some of their own earned income for the purchase of capital goods, which may increase their income still more in the future.

Family living expenditures show a tendency to increase with income, but the difference in amount spent by the highest and lowest income groups is only \$326 (Table 2). The proportionate increase in family living expenditures is not so great as that of costs of farm operation.

Apparently the quantity of food consumed by even the lowest-income family is nearly as great as that of the family having one of the higher incomes. The four groups encompassed by incomes from under \$500 to \$1,999 spent about equal amounts for food, making the increasing living expenditures of the groups go for the purchase of nonfood commodities and services. In 4 of the 5 groups more than one-half of the total value of food was grown on the farm. If the items in that part of the food were given the same retail values which they would have if they had been purchased, 66 percent of the total food value would have been produced on the farm. The farm value per family of home-produced food was \$184, the retail value was \$305. (Table 9)

Table 2. - Distribution of expenditures, value of home-produced foods and of food purchased; by farm-income groups; 47 Utopesville Project families

Farm income group	Number of families	Family living: operation: to FSA	Payments: on debts: on other	Payments: Machinery: Livestock: Total	Payments: produced: food	Payments: purchased: food	Value of farm val)
\$499 & under	9	\$343	\$354	\$109	\$44	\$146	\$186
\$500-\$999	23	432	535	99	88	125	\$1,016 \$143
\$1000-\$1499	11	508	663	149	36	446	125 1,368 178 157
\$1500-\$1999	3	463	761	185	57	562	241 2,043 197 167
\$2000-\$2499	1	669	1,767	473	58	—	90 2,118 187 156
Total	440	571	1,226	65	—	107 3,074 143 232	188 1,543 184 158

### Characteristics of Groups

When the groups, as set up on Figure 1, were studied separately, certain factors in each group seemed to stand out.

In the case of the lowest-farm-income group (with an income less than \$500) it was found that cash expenditures for family living almost equaled cash farm income, minus miscellaneous employment. These expenditures for this group averaged \$343 for family living for an average-size family of 4.3 persons (Table 2), whereas the income from the farm, minus miscellaneous employment, averaged \$382, the former being 90 percent of the latter. It is clear, then, that without miscellaneous employment, AAA payments, FSA grants, and capital borrowed during the year, it would have been impossible to accomplish the farming operations, capital goods investments, and debt retirement, or they could have been done only at the expense of the family's level of living.

In this low-income group, home produced foods contributed measurably to family living. These foods, when assigned a farm value, were worth \$184. The cash expenditure for food amounted to an average of \$143 per family. Thus the former represented 57 percent of the total value of purchased and home-produced food. When home-produced foods were considered in relation to the total value of family living, it was found that these foods represented 35 percent of the total (Table 3). A diversified agriculture, wherein it was possible for crops to be made into usable foods by means of livestock and livestock products, contributed many important items like meat, milk, and eggs for home use. Gardens contributed vegetables and certain fruits. Much of this home-produced food was secured by using the time and labor of family members, thus turning them into virtual profit. Had it been necessary to buy all the food used, the total expenditure would have been even greater than the figures indicate, since retail prices would have been paid for all of the food.

The total costs of family living and farm operation alone (\$697) were nearly twice the farm income, minus miscellaneous employment. On the other hand, when these costs (that is, family living and farm operation) were considered in relation to total farm receipts (which is minus any borrowed capital but includes miscellaneous employment, AAA, and FSA grants) it was found that the farmers in this lowest income group had a margin of \$154, which was 18 percent of their total cash receipts. This margin was used for other expenditures in connection with farming, for debt retirement, and capital goods investment. At the same time, it was found that these farmers had borrowed substantial amounts for conducting their farm business. Ordinarily, such capital is used for investment in capital goods, but in this group only \$166 of \$399 borrowed was reported as invested in livestock and machinery. This hints that the balance must have been partially or wholly used for debt retirement, for farm operating costs, and for family living expenses.

Unless the families in the low-income group can realize a greater farm income in the years ahead, so they can invest in profit-returning capital goods, it is evident that their level of living, their farm operating costs, and their debt retirement will have to remain at an absolute minimum.

Table 3. — Relationship of family living and farm operating costs to the several types of farm receipts;  
and percentage of total value of food and family living  
represented by home-produced foods  
47 Ropesville Project families  
1939

	Percent living ex-	Percent living :Percent living ex-	Percent expenses and farm oper-	Percent of total farm :Percent of total value :Percent of total value	Percent of total farm income :Percent of total value :Percent of total value	Percent of total farm income :Percent of total value :Percent of total value
Cash	:Percent living :Percent living expenses are expenses are	:Percent living expenses are expenses and	:Percent living expenses and farm opera-	:Percent of total farm :Percent of total value :Percent of total value	:Percent of total farm income :Percent of total value :Percent of total value	:Percent of total farm income :Percent of total value :Percent of total value
Farm-	:expenses are :expenses are of total farm	:expenses are of total farm	:expenses and farm opera-	:total farm income :total farm income	:total farm income :total farm income	:total farm income :total farm income
income	:of cash farm	:farm operating income includ-	:eating costs are of	:including misc. emp-	:of food that of family	:of food that of family
groups	:income, minus costs are of	:ing misc. emp-	:eating costs are of	:including miscellan-	:is home-	:is home-
	:miscellaneous fami	:employment and AAA:ous employment,	:minus misc,	:employment and AAA:ous employment,	:produced	:produced
	:employment	:& FSA grants	:employment	:& FSA grants	:for by home-	:for by home-
					:produced food	:produced food
Under \$500	90	182	40	82	57	35
\$500-\$999	64	144	38	85	53	29
\$1000-\$1499	47	108	31	72	54	28
\$1500-\$1999	36	95	21	55	55	29
\$2000-\$2499	37	135	25	92	38	18
Total ave.	57	130	34	78	54	29

In the case of the second income group, \$500 to \$999, a somewhat different situation existed. To begin with, family-living expenditures amounted to \$432 for an average-size family of 4.4 persons. This is an increase of one-fourth over the family-living expenditures of the first group. Farm income minus miscellaneous employment amounted to \$671, exceeding the first group by 76 percent. When farm-operating costs of the second group were added to family-living costs, their total amounted to \$967, or 144 percent of the farm income minus miscellaneous employment.

A lower level of living would have existed, as was seen in the first group and as will be seen in the other income groups, if family living had not been enhanced by home-produced foods. For this group, the total of these had an average farm value per family of \$178. The cash expenditure for foods amounted to \$157. These families produced 53 percent of their food. Assuming that it had been necessary to buy all of this food, the total expenditure for family living would have been considerably greater than these data indicate, at the expense of farm operation or capital-goods investment. Or, more probably, the food expenditures would have been held down.

In this income group, as in the first, the additional income from miscellaneous employment, AAA payments, and FSA grants played an important part in meeting the necessary cash expenditures encumbent upon these families. With this income and without any borrowed capital, these families realized \$1,134 to meet \$1,154 in running or current expenses including debt retirement. If it had not been for debt repayments, which amounted to \$187, they would have had a margin of \$167, or 15 percent of their total cash receipts, which could have been used for other expenditures in connection with the farming enterprise; for example, for capital goods investment.

These families, as those in the first group, borrowed a substantial amount of capital but it was not invested entirely in capital goods. Of the \$334 borrowed by the average family in the group, only \$214 was invested in such goods. This, too, suggests that the balance of \$120 must have been used partially or wholly for debt retirement, for farm operation, and for family-living expenses.

The families in this second group did better than the families in the first group in the way of debt retirement and meeting other current expenses but their investment in capital goods was small. In effect, it will be impossible for them to realize a substantial income from their investment in capital goods unless, through a good crop year and good market conditions, it is possible for them to invest some of their crop receipts in more capital goods and thus build up greater possibilities for a diversified agricultural economy.

In the third farm-income group, of \$1,000 - \$1,499, certain substantial improvements over the first and second groups are noted. Income from the farm, minus miscellaneous employment, came quite nearly to meeting family-living and farm-operating costs, minus debt retirement. These costs amounted to \$1,171, whereas the income amounted to \$1,032, leaving a deficit of \$89.

Family living in this group represented a cash expenditure of \$508 for an average-size family of 4.9 persons. This was slightly less than one-half of the farm income (47 percent), minus miscellaneous employment. The farm value of the home-produced foods was \$197, representing 54 percent of the total value of produced and purchased foods. Purchased foods represented an expenditure of \$167. These home-produced foods made up 28 percent of the total value of purchased and produced items of family living. Although the percentage of the total value of family living represented by the value of home-produced foods is somewhat less than in the first two income groups, it remains that the monetary value is practically the same. This indicates that the families in all of the groups have put forth equal efforts toward realizing a portion of their subsistence from the land, livestock, and poultry. The increased living expenses are represented by purchases of nonfood items, a considerable part of which are probably to satisfy psychological needs.

It is to be noted from Figure 1 that farm-operating costs are substantially greater in this income group, being \$633 as compared with \$354 and \$535 in the 2 lower income groups, respectively. Simultaneously, investment in capital goods was much greater than in the two lower income groups. These goods, of necessity, required greater expenditures for fuel and upkeep, and for livestock feed and expense. Capital investment exceeded the amount of capital borrowed during the year. Under favorable circumstances, the families possessing these capital goods can expect a material increase in income from their farms. More important is the psychological value of the feeling of success which may be considered a real, if not measurable, addition to the farm families' level of living.

With considerable capital invested in capital goods during the year, a certain degree of elasticity will be possible for these families in the future in that emphasis of expenditure can be shifted from one type to another without seriously impairing the effectiveness of farming operations or the level of living. There was little retirement of debt in this group. Under favorable circumstances they might try to retire more so they will be relieved of the burden of debt in a shorter period of time.

The families in the fourth income group (\$1,500 - 1,999) indicated the best level of living of any group on the project. Expenditures for family living amounted to \$463 for an average-size family of 3.3 persons, or 36 percent of the farm income, minus miscellaneous employment. Farm-operating expenditures minus debt retirement amounted to \$761. Family-living and farm-operating expenses together amounted to \$1,224, or 95 percent of the cash farm income of \$1,289.

Family living was enhanced by \$187 worth of home-produced foods, representing 55 percent of the total value of food consumed and 29 percent of the total value of family living. Food purchased amounted to an expenditure of \$156. Evidently these families, since their average size was small, enjoyed a somewhat higher level of living than did the families in the preceding groups.

Total income, minus any capital borrowed during the year, exceeded by \$90 the total expenditures including capital investment, the income being \$2,208 and total expenditures including debt retirement and investment being \$2,118. Debt retirement amounted to \$242. At the same time, considerable investment was made

in capital goods, which will allow for a certain degree of elasticity in the handling of farm finance. Considering the small amount of total indebtedness, these families, under favorable conditions, will apparently soon retire their obligations.

The fifth income group (\$2,000-\$2,499) is represented by only one family; thus it becomes a case study. The method used illustrates primarily a technique that might be used in individual case studies by county supervisors and others concerned with evaluating the progress of individual clients.

It is apparent from casual inspection of the chart that this operator has engaged somewhat in speculative farming.

To begin with, the cash expenditure for family living amounted to \$669 for a family of 4 persons. This amount is in excess of the average for any of the other groups. The cash expenditure for food alone amounted to \$232, which is higher than the average for any of the other groups. At the same time, the value of home-produced foods was less than that of any of the lower-income groups. Home-produced food was valued at \$143, representing 38 percent of the total value of food consumed and 18 percent of the total value of family living. Expenditures for items other than family living were also greater than corresponding expenditures in any of the lower income groups (fig. 1).

Farm operating expenditures were \$1,767, a sum much higher than that of any of the other income groups. Income from the farm, minus miscellaneous employment, was \$1,809 - only \$32 net income, a return of only .0181 percent. Little capital was borrowed during the year (\$234), and little investment was made in capital goods (\$107). It follows that, for this family, miscellaneous employment and AAA payments have been essential sources of income in meeting the total farm-operating expenditures, family-living expenditures, and debt retirement -the debt payment amounted to \$531.

#### All Income Groups

In general, and for all income groups, it may be said that miscellaneous employment, AAA payments, and FSA grants played an important part in maintaining a reasonable balance between total receipts and total expenditures. Especially was this true in the lower-income groups.

Data for these five income groups do not account for the differences between total receipts and total expenditures. It was found that certain small expenditures were not always entered as such in the family record books. Cash on hand at the beginning and end of the year was also omitted but it may be assumed that this amounted to very little.

When the 47 families were viewed as a whole, from the standpoint of income and expenditures, certain general facts stood out. Among others, income was realized from several sources, the most important being livestock and livestock products (table 4) for 54 percent, or \$464 of \$855 of the average farm income per family, came from this source. Crop sales contributed only 29 percent, emphasizing two facts: (1) that cash-crop farming is not regarded as profitable and (2) processing of feed crops by means of the livestock and livestock products provided

a more-or-less continuous flow of cash throughout the year as well as contributing largely to the fund of home-produced and consumed foods.

Table 4.- Sources of cash farm income, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

Source	: Percent of total : :	
	: cash income	: Average per family
Dairy products	:	28 \$238
Hogs	:	10 85
Cattle	:	7 62
Eggs	:	5 47
Poultry	:	3 22
Other 1/	:	1 10
Total	:	54 \$464
Crop sales	:	29 242
Miscellaneous employment	:	9 79
Other miscellaneous sources 2/:	:	8 70
Total farm income	:	100 \$855

1/ Other livestock and produce sales.

2/ Gifts, inheritances, miscellaneous sales, etc.

Although they have made considerable progress the families in this newly constructed community still need assistance from Federal agencies.

Only a few years ago these families were on farms of such inadequate physical capacity that, regardless of work and management, their reward was nothing but the most meager living - far below the minimum requirements for health and providing none of the intangible satisfactions. Had it not been for the Ropesville Project, these families might have joined the stream of migrants. The family living of these groups might be contrasted with that of their less fortunate contemporaries as reported in Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.

Nine families had farm incomes of less than \$500, but none of the 47 families kept their total expenditures for farm business and family living within that amount. In the next cash-farm-income group (\$500 - \$999) 23 families had incomes within this amount, but only 10 were able to limit their expenditures therein. A more optimistic situation is seen in the cash-farm-income group of \$1,000 - \$1,499, in which there were 11 families whose income fell within this amount, as compared with 16 who had expenditures within these limits. Three families had total expenditures of more than \$2,500 but none had farm incomes that approached that amount.

Again, it may be seen that *AAA* payments which amounted to an average of \$418 per farm played a vital part in meeting the farm and family expenditures. Borrowed capital and grants from the Farm Security Administration and borrowings from private sources also helped.

Table 5.- Distribution of 47 Ropesville Project families, by farm income and by total farm business and family living expenditures

Cash farm income and expenditures groups	: No. families having this farm income 1/	: No. families having these farm business and family living exp. 2/
Under \$500	:	9
\$500 - \$999	:	23
\$1,000 - \$1,499	:	11
\$1,500 - \$1,999	:	3
\$2,000 - \$2,499	:	1
\$2,500 and over	:	—
Total	:	47

1/ Income from normal farm sources and miscellaneous employment.

2/ Includes debt retirement and capital goods investment.

This expenditure of Federal money has meant and is meaning to the family involved, the acquisition of capital goods, of a home, and of land from which it can eventually become self-supporting.

A study of their record books suggests that these families have made a conscientious effort to control expenditures through farm and home plans and through record-keeping of all income and expenditures. In this way they have been able to secure the maximum in goods and satisfactions from their incomes.

## FAMILY LIVING

### Classification of Items of Family Living

The following classification of family-living items was used throughout the study. At this point only purchased items were included. A discussion of home-produced items comes later.

(1) Food included groceries, meats, meals eaten away from home, and such miscellaneous items as candy, ice cream, and cold drinks.

(2) Household operation included kitchen and laundry supplies; fuel for cooking, heat, and light; stationery, telephone and telegraph.

(3) Clothing included material for home-made garments and for repair; for ready-to-wear garments; shoes, rubbers, boots, gloves, handkerchiefs, neckties, dry-cleaning, and accessories.

(4) Housing, furnishings and equipment included minor repairs to furniture and home; purchase or replacement of furniture or of kitchen and laundry equipment, floor coverings, window shades and curtains, bedding, miscellaneous small items of kitchenware, and ornamental furnishings.

(5) Medical included hospitalization and clinical care, doctor, oculist, and dentist fees, medicine, and drug items.

(6) Personal included items of personal indulgences, as tobacco, cigarettes, cosmetics, jewelry, and personal services received at barber and beauty shops.

(7) Education, recreation, church, welfare, gifts, etc. included school supplies, fees, newspapers, magazines, books, shows, plays, lectures, music lessons, organization dues, cash donations for church and welfare, and gifts outside the family.

(8) Insurance included life insurance premiums and other investment-type savings.

To learn accurately the expenditure pattern for items of family living an analysis was made of the actual and anticipated cash expenditures for goods and services consumed by the average family.

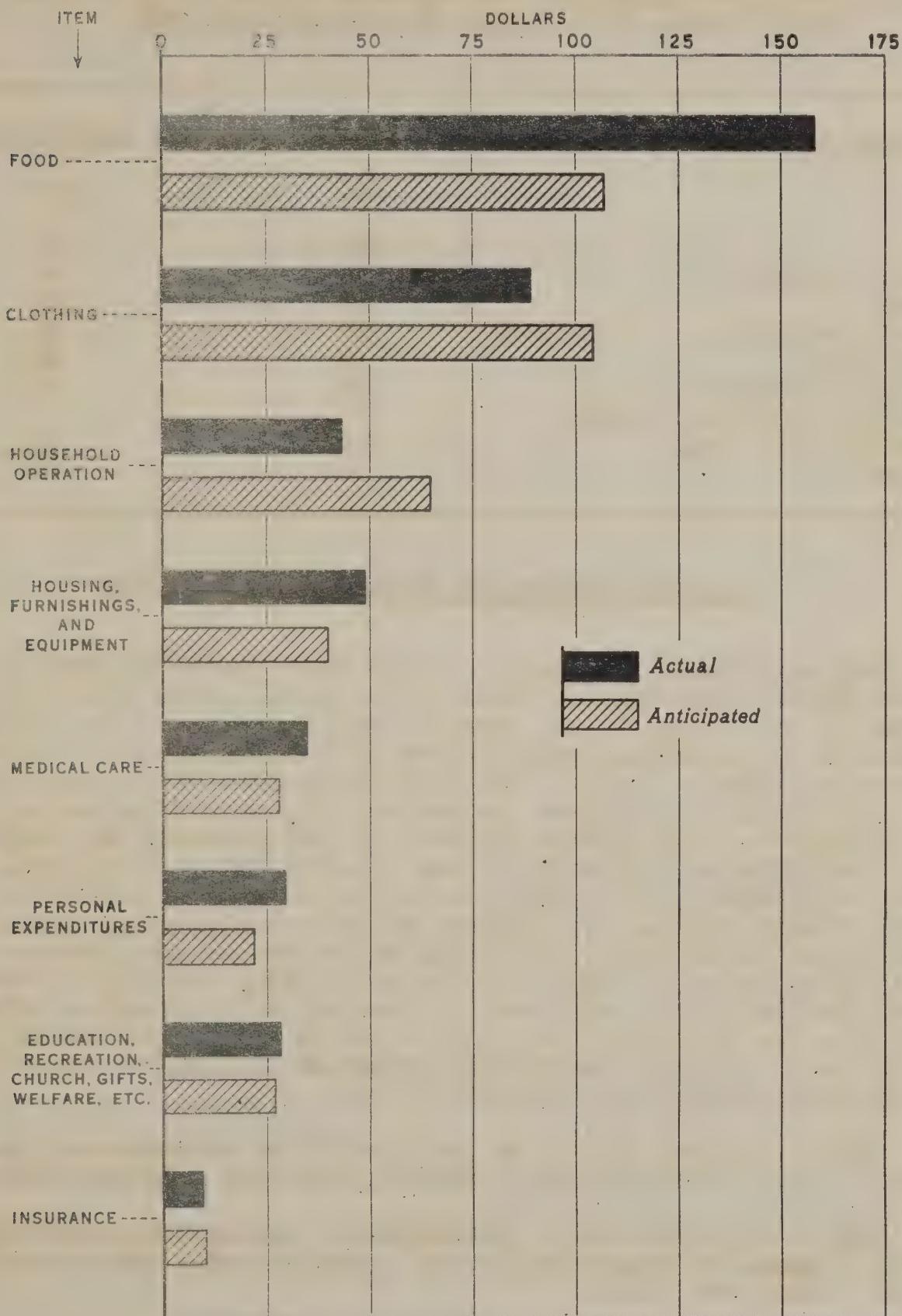
First, it may be pointed out that family-living items alone required a cash outlay of an average of \$440 per family, or \$100 per person. These families averaged 4.4 persons each. The average farm income per family was \$855. Family-living expenditures absorbed 51.5 percent of this amount. There was some variation in family-living expenditures when considered by size of farm income (table 2). In those families whose farm income was under \$1,000, the family-living expenditures were less than the average for all families, being \$432 for the \$500 - \$999 group and \$343 for the group whose income was under \$500. However, the size of family was practically the same as the average for all families, being 4.4 and 4.3 persons, respectively. Those families who had an income in excess of \$1,000, on the other hand, spent an average of from \$463 to \$669 for family living items when considered by income groups. These families averaged 4.5 persons.

#### Planning for Family Living

Although the average anticipated cash expenditure for all items of family living was only \$37 below that actually spent by each family, there was considerable variation, over and under, when the items were considered individually (table 6). The item of food shows the greatest under-anticipated expenditure - \$51; on the other hand, household operation and clothing, two large items of expenditure, were over-anticipated by \$22 and \$15, respectively (fig. 2). The expenditures for the other items were more closely anticipated.

This variation had several causes. At the beginning of the year when the farm and home plans were set up cooperatively by the farmers and the Farm and Home Management supervisors of the Farm Security Administration, it was assumed that there would be very little fluctuation in prices during the year. Then, because of the dietary habits of the people, not so much milk or so many home-produced vegetables were consumed as had been expected when plans were made. This meant a heavier cash outlay for foods bought at the local markets. These families have evidently purchased food with cash which would have been used for other items of family living if the plans had been followed. For example, certain

ACTUAL AND ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES PER FAMILY FOR  
FAMILY LIVING, DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF EXPENDITURE.  
47 ROPESVILLE PROJECT FAMILIES, 1939



of the money that was planned as anticipated expenditures for household operation, for clothing, and for insurance was used for food since they could get along with less than was planned for these other items.

Table 6.— Actual and anticipated cash expenditures per family for items of family living, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

Items of family living	Actual	Anticipated
Total	440	403
Food	158	107
Household operation	43	65
Clothing	89	104
Housing, furnishings, and equipment	49	40
Medical care	35	28
Personal expenditures	29	22
Education, recreation, church, welfare, gifts, etc.	28	27
Insurance	9	10

Cash Expenditures for Family Living, by Months

Cash expenditures for items of family living during the first 6 months of the year were considerably below those of the last 6 months of the year (table 7). The average, per family, for the first 6 months ranged from a low of \$22 in June to a high of \$31 in March. During the second 6 months, the range was from a low of \$33 in September to a high of \$66 in December. The average expenditure per month, per family, for the first 6 months was \$28, and for the second 6 months, \$45 — an increase of 61 percent. In terms of cash expended, the amount per month for food expenditures remained relatively constant except during July, when canning and preserving were taking place. Expenditures are affected both by the seasonal returns from the farm business and by seasonal changes in the need for certain items. Expenditures for clothing showed the greatest increase during the second half of the year, particularly during October, November, and December. Housing, furnishings, and equipment also received added attention during these months (fig. 3). These were items most needed at this time of the year, and, too, money from crop sales and livestock and livestock products was coming in. Physical activities were heavier and hired help had to be fed.

During the first half of the year most of the available cash was used chiefly for farm operation, such as seeding, equipment, equipment upkeep, and fuel.

Data as presented shows a distribution of expenditures rather than purchases by month of year. No attempt was made to learn the exact time the various items of family living were bought.

MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF CASH EXPENDITURES PER FAMILY FOR  
ITEMS OF FAMILY LIVING, 47 ROPESVILLE PROJECT FAMILIES, 1939

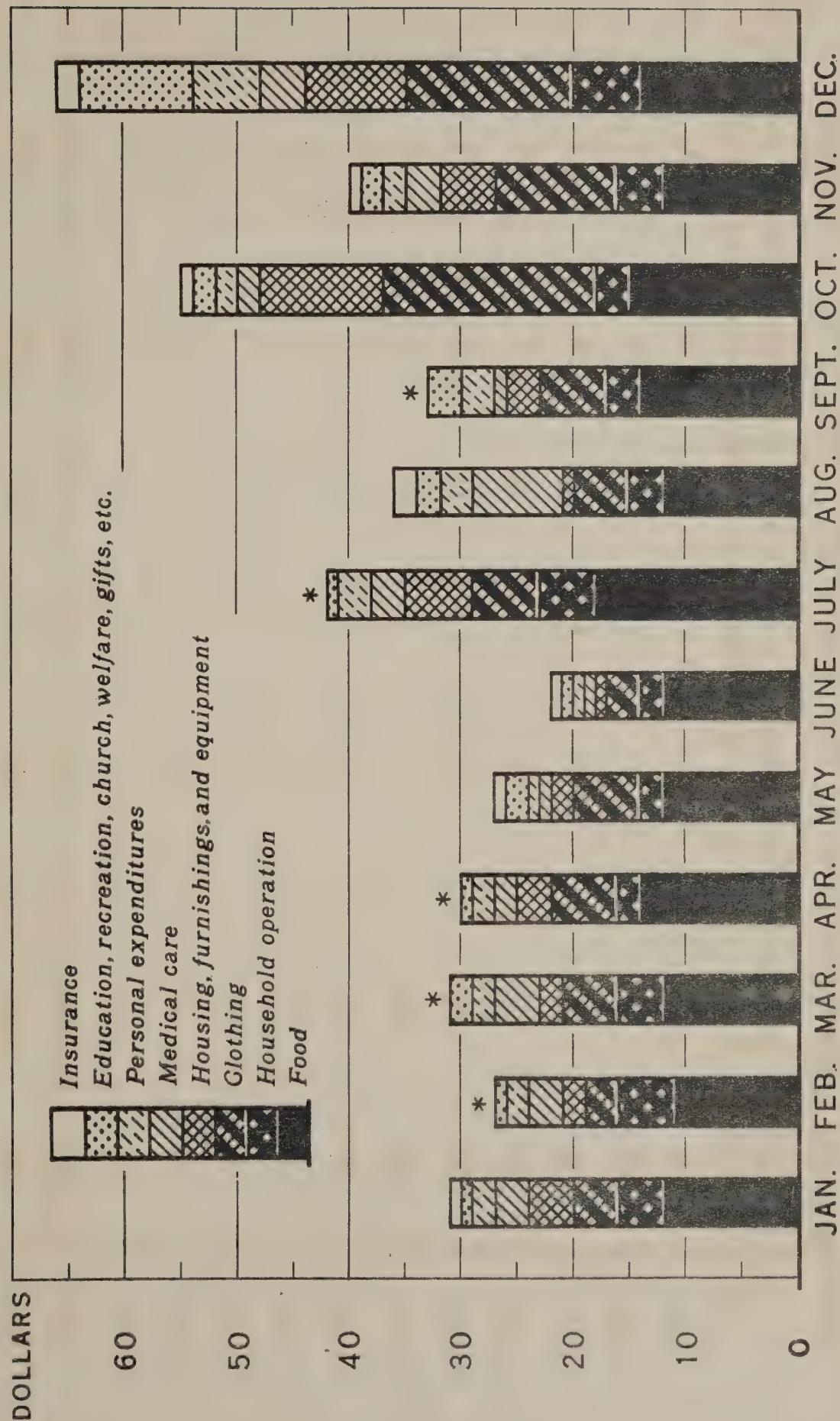


Table 7.—Money paid out per month per family, for family living items; 47 Ropesville Project families  
1939

	Total expenses: per family for family living :	Housing: Household: Food:operation: Clothing:	Furnishings:Medical: and care: Equipment:	Personal expenditures: church, welfare: gifts, etc.:	Education recreation
Jan.	\$31	\$12	\$4	\$4	\$1
Feb.	27	11	5	3	1
Mar.	31	12	4	5	-*
Apr.	30	14	2	6	-*
May	27	12	2	6	-*
June	22	12	2	3	1
July	42	18	5	6	1
Aug.	36	12	3	5	2
Sept.	33	14	3	6	3
Oct.	55	15	3	19	1
Nov.	40	12	4	11	2
Dec.	66	14	6	15	2
Total	\$440	\$158	\$43	\$89	\$28
				\$35	\$29
				\$49	\$10
					\$9

\* Less than 50 cents.

Expenditures per Person for Items of Family Living  
by Size of Family

Family living studies usually show that larger farm families generally have larger incomes than the smaller families. This was not true on this project in 1939, except to a small extent.

The average farm income of those families having less than 5 full-time resident members was \$834 for the year 1939; the average of those families having 5 or more members was \$868. 2/ This small difference did not allow the members of the large families to live as well as the members of the small families. There were 29 small families, who averaged 3.5 persons each, and 18 large families, who averaged 6 persons each. An average of \$120 was spent per persons in the small families for family-living items, whereas only \$81 was spent per person in the large families - a difference of \$39 (table 8). Evidently the average person in the large families lacked \$14 of having as much to spend for food as did the average person in the small family, and had \$7 less for clothing.

Average expenditures per adult male equivalent for all families and for the large and small families are also shown in table 8. 3/ This scale is really applicable only to food consumption but was applied here in order that other comparisons might be made. When expenditures for the small and large families were considered in terms of adult male equivalent, the difference became \$43 instead of the \$39, as computed on the per person basis. Part of this difference is attributed to the fact that members of large families were younger than members of the small families.

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2/ All families studied consisted of parents and children; there were no unattached members in any of the households.

3/ See table 13, p. 31 for adult male-equivalent scale used to weight food consumption of family members.

Table 8.- Average cash expenditures per person and per adult male equivalent for foods and services, by size of family 1/, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939.

	: All families	: Small families	: Large families			
	: Per person	: Adult male equivalent	: Per person	: Adult male equivalent	: Per person	: Adult male equivalent
Food	\$36	\$42	\$43	\$50	\$29	\$35
Household operation	10	11	12	14	8	9
Clothing	20	24	24	28	17	20
Housing, furnishings, & equipment	11	13	15	17	7	9
Medical care	8	9	8	9	8	10
Personal expenditures	6	8	9	11	4	5
Education, recreation, church, welfare, & gifts	6	7	8	9	5	6
Insurance	2	2	1	2	3	3
Total	99	116	120	140	81	97
	:					

1/ Small families -- those having less than 5 members.

Large families -- those having 5 or more members.

Average farm income for small families. . . . .	\$846
Average farm income for large families. . . . .	868
Average farm value of foods produced on the farms of small families . . . . .	168
Average farm value of foods produced on the farms of large families . . . . .	209

(1) Food expenditures.-- This tabulated summary shows that for the small and large families, as well as when all families were combined, food represented the largest single item of family living, being 36 percent of the total expenditures for items of family living for each of the 3 groups. Since the total spent for items of family living varied between the small and large families, it follows that the amount per person varied. In the small families \$43 was spent per person for food; \$29 per person was spent in the large families.

It is impossible to determine the relative adequacy or inadequacy of the food consumed by the size of family but the situation was not so serious as might appear. As the farm value of the food produced and consumed on the farm of the small family was \$168, and on the farm of the large family, \$209, the members of the large families apparently fared practically as well as members of the small families. Here again the importance of diversified farm activities is evident.

(2) Clothing expenditures.— Clothing represented the second largest expenditure for items of family living, representing 20 percent of the total expenditures. The proportionate amounts spent for clothing for the small-family person and the large-family person were almost the same but there was a difference of \$7 between them. Expenditures for the small-family person were \$24 and for the latter, \$17. It goes without saying that, usually, for these amounts only essential garments were bought.

(3) Housing, furnishings, and equipment.— This item represented 11 percent of the expenditures per person for all families, 12.5 percent per person for small families, and 9 percent per person for the large families; however, in terms of actual expenditures, only half as much per person was spent by the large families — \$7 per person, as compared with \$15 for the small-family person. If taken on a family basis, these expenditures for all families were \$49; for the small families, \$52; and for the large families, \$44.

(4) Household-operation expenditures.— These expenditures, representing almost 10 percent of the total, were fourth in size for the all-family group and for the small-family group, and third in size for the large-family group. They averaged \$10 per person for the first group, or \$43 per family; \$12 per person for the second or \$41 per family; and \$8 per person for the third, or \$45 per family.

(5) Medical-care expenditure.— It is apparent that expenditures for medical care were not influenced by size of family. For both the small- and large-family person there was an average expenditure of \$8 each. This represented 8 percent of the total expenditure per person in the all-family group, 7 percent per person in the small-family group, and 10 percent per person in the large-family group. When considered on a family basis, it was found that, among small families, medical expenditures ranged from none to \$163, and for the large families this range was from \$2 to \$181. This large range may be accounted for through the occurrence of emergencies and through payment of earlier obligations.

(6) Other family-living expenditures.— This group of expenditures — which includes personal expenditures, education, recreation, church, welfare, gifts, and insurance — represents 15 percent of the total expenditures for items of family living by size of family groups. The small-family person spent \$18 for items in this category, whereas the large-family person spent only \$12.

It is interesting that food, clothing, and personal expenditures represented a larger outlay of cash per person among the small-family persons than among the large-family persons, being \$76 per person among the former and \$50 per person among the latter.

#### Home-produced Foods

The 47 families on the Ropesville Project consumed \$16,084 worth of food, an average of \$342 per family. (The farm value is given to home-produced food.) Of this amount, \$8,634 worth was produced on the farm. Thus each family, on the average, increased its income by \$184, simply by producing some of its own vegetables, eggs, and dairy and meat products, (table 9).

This does not give the complete picture. If they had bought these commodities on the market, the cost would have been \$305. The meat purchases alone would have cost \$121. In short, their food expenditures were cut \$121, or 26 percent, thus saving a substantial amount to be spent for other items of family living, for farm-operating expenses, or for capital goods.

The two principal home-produced items were meat and milk, representing almost 80 percent of the food that was produced and consumed on the farm. The rest were fruits, vegetables, eggs, dried beans, peas, nuts, and potatoes. As the average cash expenditure for food was \$153, it can be seen that the food from the farm represented a value in excess of that of food purchased. Food from the farm has meant a real improvement in the farm way of living. Less cash was necessary for food than would have been true were these families being rehabilitated in the city.

The considerable difference between farm prices and city prices is shown by the fact that the food products produced and consumed on the farm would have cost 66 percent more than the farm-price quotations (that is, the prices at which the farmer could sell his products) had these foods been bought at the local retail markets. The farm value of these home-produced and consumed foods was 60 percent of the retail prices. Milk was 50 percent higher at the local retail market, meat 69 percent higher, eggs 64 percent higher, and fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, were 92 percent higher.

In making these comparisons it is assumed that foods grown and used on the farm were of the same quality as those available in local retail markets. It may well be that the foods consumed on the farm were of a quality somewhat below that prevailing in the local retail markets.

But differences in quality for the market may not always or usually have been reflected in nutritive values, and these families probably secured as much or more nutritive values from home-produced foods than if the same items had been purchased.

A probable question at this point is, just what kinds of food are grown.

The average number of cattle on each farm was 7; the hog numbers varied some, but usually there were enough to provide the home supply of meat. The poultry consisted of an average of 100 hens in a culled flock.

The principal fruits were plums and peaches. The vegetables in the gardens were green beans, beets, tomatoes, turnips, cucumbers, mustard, lettuce, carrots, okra, onions, and potatoes.

The pressure cooker method of canning fruits and vegetables was used by practically all the families. No cellars are used for storage but large pantries had been provided in all of the houses for storing fruits and vegetables.

#### Planning of the Home-produced Food Supply

Considerable variation is found between the anticipated and the actual home-produced food supply (table 10). The actual quantity per family of milk produced and used was 827 quarts below that anticipated. Meat, on the other hand, exceeded by 287 pounds that anticipated. Leafy green and yellow vegetable production and use was overanticipated by 156 pounds per family. Other items, such as eggs, dried beans, peas, and nuts, and other fruits and vegetables, were more closely estimated.

Table 9.—Farm and retail values of foods produced on the farm and consumed in the home, by number of families reporting, 47 Ropesville Project families, 208 persons, 1939

	Milk <sup>1/</sup>	Meat	Eggs	Dried beans: leafy, green: peas & nuts: yellow	and vegetables	Potatoes	Total
Quantity	43,054(9t)	34,461(1b)	6,367(dz)	1,139(1b)	13,412(1b)	39,635(1b)	500(1b)
Farm value	\$2,408	\$4,480	\$ 700	\$ 47	\$ 201	\$ 793	\$10
Farm value per family	51	95	15	3	13	26	10
Retail value	3,604	7,581	1,146	83	536	1,387	15
Retail value per family	77	161	24	5	36	46	15
Percent farm value is of retail value	66.7	59.1	61.1	56.6	37.5	57.2	66.7
Percent retail value exceeds farm value	50.0	69.2	63.7	76.5	166.7	75.0	50.0
Number families reporting	47	47	47	17	15	30	1

<sup>1/</sup> Including milk equivalent of cream, butter, and cheese.

Some of these variations may be accounted for by the fact that these people had lived mainly on meat in the past - a hangover of the traditional meat-meal-and-molasses diets so common among the poorer people in the South. The Farm Security Administration is making vigorous efforts to bring about a better balance in the diet of the groups.

The data for the 47 families, who averaged 4.4 persons each, shows the quantity of home-produced food consumed per family and per person. The average for the year, per family, was 1,022 quarts of milk or 0.6 quart per person per day; 733 pounds of meat, or 0.46 pound per person per day; 135 dozens of eggs, or 1 egg per person per day; and 1,163 pounds of vegetables and fruits, including potatoes, 0.7 pound per person per day.

Table 10.- Yearly summary of food products produced and used on the farm, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

Item	Unit	Anticipated:		Actual production
		production	use related	and use
		and use	: to that anticipated	per family
Milk	:qt.	1,849	1,022	-827
Meat	:lb.	446	733	+287
Eggs	:doz.	145	135	- 10
Dried beans, peas and nuts	:lb.	51	24	- 27
Vegetables, leafy green and yellow	:lb.	441	285	-156
Other fruits and vegetables	:lb.	767	843	+ 76
Potatoes	:lb.	459	11	-448
	:			

#### Foods Canned and Stored

The families on the Ropesville Project were resourceful in utilizing fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats for the table during season and an inspection of the inventories of canned and stored products shows that during the year considerable canning was done. At the end of the year each family had an average of 369 quarts of canned vegetables, as compared with 173 at the beginning of the year; 115 quarts of canned fruit as compared with 39; and 30 quarts of canned meat as compared with 14 quarts. If a flat value of 10 cents per quart is given to vegetables, 15 cents to fruits, and 25 cents to meats, the inventory value of foods canned, plus those stored at the end of the year, exceeds the value of the food on hand at the beginning of the year by \$44 per family, which is more than double the inventory at the beginning of the year (table 11). The value of the stored products, at the beginning of the year (not including canned products) was \$6 and at the end it was \$14. The stored items consisted of fruits, vegetables, and meat products preserved by methods other than canning.

There are two apparent reasons for the large increase in the canned-foods inventory: (1) The FSA is encouraging the building up of a full year's surplus of canned foods whereas (2) the people have not broken away from their heavy meat-and-meal-eating habits. But it is apparent that the families on the Ropesville Project had made better preparations for the year 1940 than they had for the year 1939.

Table 11.— Inventories of food products canned and stored at the beginning and end of year, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

	: Inventory at beginning: of year	: Inventory at end of year	: Increase in inventory
Vegetables (qt.)	: 173	369	196
Fruit (qt.)	: 39	115	76
Meats (qt.)	: 14	30	16
Value of stored products	: \$6	\$14	\$9
Value of all foods canned and stored, per family	: \$32	\$76	\$44

#### SUMMARY

(1) In the study here reported 47 FSA farm-family record books that had been kept during the year 1939 were used. The families studied averaged 4.4 persons each. The average age of the operator was 36 years and his average of schooling completed was the eighth grade.

(2) The land base in the Ropesville Project, on which these families live, averages 202 acres per unit. Diversified cash-crop livestock farming was practiced. The average farm income from crops, livestock, livestock products, and miscellaneous employment, and other miscellaneous sources was \$855, of which 54 percent came from livestock and livestock products. This was exclusive of loans, grants, and AAA payments. Farm- and family-living expenditures, including debt retirement and capital goods investment, averaged \$1,543. AAA payments averaged \$418 per farm. On an average, these families borrowed \$331 from the Farm Security Administration, were given \$18 in the form of FSA grants, and borrowed \$.64 from private sources.

(3) When the families were grouped by amount of farm income, those who showed an income of \$1,500 - \$1,999 indicated the best financial condition. Their income, minus any borrowed capital, exceeded by \$90 their total expenditures including capital investment and debt retirement. It is evident that a certain degree of elasticity in management of farm finance is possible for families who have a total income of at least this amount.

(4) Of the \$440 spent for family living, \$158 was spent for food, \$92 for household operation, housing, furnishings, and equipment, and \$89 for clothing. The remaining \$101 was distributed among the items of medical care, personal expenditures, education, recreation, church, welfare, gifts, and insurance.

(5) Total cash expenditures per family for family living items were underanticipated by \$37. Food showed the greatest difference, being underanticipated by \$51, whereas household operation and clothing were overanticipated by \$22 and \$15, respectively.

(6) Average expenditure for family living per month per family for the first 6 months of 1939 was \$28 and for the second 6 months it was \$45, an increase of 61 percent. Expenditures for clothing showed the greatest increase during the second half of the year. More was also spent for housing, furnishings, and equipment during these months.

(7) On an average in the small families \$120 was spent per person during the year, whereas in the large families \$81 was spent. The greatest difference, \$14, occurred in the item of food expenditure. Housing, furnishings, and equipment expenditures varied by \$8 in favor of the person in the small family; clothing by \$7, personal, education, recreation, church, welfare, gifts, and insurance expenditures varied by \$6; and household operation by \$4. There was no variation in the case of medical care.

(8) Farm value of home-produced and consumed foods was equivalent to 42 percent of the total cash expenditures for family living. Their value was \$184. Meat and milk contributed 80 percent of this amount; vegetables and fruits made up the rest. Use of milk in the home was overanticipated by 827 quarts. Meat, on the other hand, was underanticipated by 287 pounds.

(9) Canned foods in the inventory at the beginning of the year stood at 226 quarts; at the end of the year it was more than double this quantity or 514 quarts. Stored products were valued at \$6 at the beginning and at \$14 at the end of the year. These increases in inventories represented substantial preparation for the ensuing year.

This study was limited in scope and character, but it may perhaps stimulate further and more extensive studies of conditions among families on resettlement projects. There is much to learn about this new way of rural life. Moreover, with additional information and records of progress at hand, action agencies will be better prepared to evaluate action programs both before and after they are set to work.

## APPENDIX

Table 11.- Distribution of expenditures, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

Item	: Expenditures per family	: Percent of total
All expenses - total	\$1,543	100
Miscellaneous operating expenses -		
total	500	33
Seed, feed, fertilizer, harvest and livestock expense, hired labor	\$262	17
Tractor fuel and auto expense	96	6
Rent	80	5
Unclassified	56	4
Taxes, insurance, and interest	6	1
Machinery and equipment - total	258	17
Machinery and equipment purchases	188	12
Machinery and equipment repairs	70	5
Debts payments - total	191	12
Payments on debts to FSA	126	8
Payments on other debts	65	4
Livestock purchased - total	154	10
Cattle	91	6
Horses	34	2
Poultry	19	1
Other Livestock	10	1
Family living - total	440	28
Family living expenses	440	28

Table 12.- Cash income and cash expense, 47 Ropesville Project families, 1939

		Average
	All farms	47 farms
<u>Money received</u>	:	
Cash farm income	: \$40,177.34	\$ 854.84
A.A.A. payments	: 19,668.03	418.47
F.S.A. loans and grants	: 16,393.75	348.80
Money borrowed	: 3,024.96	64.36
Total money received	: <u>\$79,264.08</u>	<u>\$1,686.47</u>
<u>Money paid out</u>	:	
Cash farm expenses	: \$42,868.10	\$ 912.09
Cash living expenses	: 20,671.48	439.82
Debt payments	: 8,964.33	190.73
Total expenditures	: <u>\$72,503.81</u>	<u>\$1,542.64</u>
Cash balance	: \$ 6,760.27	\$ 143.83

Table 13.-Adult male equivalent scale used to weigh food consumption of family members

Age (years)	:	Weight (in terms of adult male)		
		Child	Boy or man	Girl or woman
1	:	.4		
2	:	.5		
3	:	.55		
4	:	.6		
5	:	.65		
6	:	.75		
7	:	.75		
8	:	.8		
9	:	.8		
10	:	.85		
11	:		.95	.85
12	:		.95	.95
13	:		1.0	1.0
14	:		1.0	.95
15	:		1.05	.9
16	:		1.05	.85
17	:		1.1	.85
18 to 59	:		1.0	.94
60 and over	:		1.0	.9
	:			

Adapted from scale of weighing food consumption published by E. L. Kirkpatrick, Rosalind Tough, and May L. Cowles, in "How Farm Families Meet the Emergency," Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 126.

